# State of Hawaii DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES Division of Aquatic Resources Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 28, 2006

BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES State of Hawaii Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS TO AMEND HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (HAR), CHAPTER 13-75, RULES REGULATING THE POSSESSION AND USE OF CERTAIN FISHING GEAR, TO FURTHER RESTRICT THE USE OF LAY GILL NETS, FOR PROHIBITING THEIR USE IN CERTAIN WATERS OF THE STATE, INCLUDING REDESCRIPTION OF RESTRICTED AREAS, DEFINE AFFECTED SPECIES, CLARIFY PENALTIES, AND OTHER HOUSEKEEPING MEASURES.

This is a resubmittal of the January 27, 2006 request to amend HAR Chapter 13-75, and was approved with conditions by the Board. In addition to the proposed amendments to further restrict the use of lay gill nets and to prohibit their use in certain waters of the State, the Department proposes to include a clarification of those restricted areas, further define affected species, clarify the penalty provisions, and other housekeeping measures, as identified. Following the January 27, 2006 Board approval, the Attorney General (AG) had identified these additional housekeeping items in the draft rule, and has recommended that these additional housekeeping and non-substantive changes be made to clarify the proposed rule amendments and to make it more consistent with other current regulations. Therefore the AG has recommended that these additional proposed rule changes be resubmitted for Board approval.

Most of the proposed changes are non-substantive grammatical and housekeeping measures throughout Chapter 13-75. The penalty references have been expanded to include all applicable penalties to make the rules more enforceable, as well as clearer. The definitions of the fishes referenced in this chapter include their scientific names for clarity. The maps and accompanying description denoting the proposed closed areas to lay gill net fishing have been changed to make them more enforceable.

Additionally, upon notice of public hearing, the Department will accept written comments for at least thirty days and extend this comment period two weeks past the final hearing date to allow for further public comment and discussion.

Upon Board approval, the Department will submit the draft rule to the AG for its review and approval as to form prior to requesting the Governor's approval to hold public hearings.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Board approve the holding of public hearings on the proposed amendments to chapter 13-75, HAR, "Rules Regulating the Possession and Use of Certain Fishing Gear."

Respectfully submitted,

Dan A. Polhemus, Administrator Division of Aquatic Resources

Francis Outo

#### APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

PETER T. YOUNG, Chairperson Board of Land and Natural Resources

Attachment: HAR Chapter 13-75 (draft 4/19/06)

#### Rules Amending Title 13 Hawaii Administrative Rules

(Date)

1. Chapter 75 of Title 13, Hawaii
Administrative Rules, entitled "Rules Regulating the
Possession and Use of Certain Fishing Gear" is amended
and compiled to read as follows:

#### "HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

TITLE 13

#### DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBTITLE 4

FISHERIES

#### PART IV FISHERIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

#### CHAPTER 75

[Rules Regulating The Possession And Use Of Certain Fishing Gear] RULES REGULATING THE POSSESSION AND USE OF CERTAIN FISHING GEAR

Definitions
Penalty
Severability
Disposal of fishing gear
Explosives
Electrofishing devices
Poisonous substances
Firearms
Spears
Throw nets
Drift gill nets
Gill nets
Akule nets
Lay nets

§13-75-13	Bullpen traps
\$13-75-14	Nets, generally
§13-75-15	Traps

\$13-75-1 <u>Definitions.</u> As used in this chapter, unless otherwise provided:

"Akule" means any fish identified as Selar crumenophthalmus or other recognized synonyms. This fish is also known as pa'a'a, halalu, hahalalu, and big-eye scad.

"Bag net" means a type of fishing net made into the shape of a pocket or pouch with an open end held open in the water with the aid of a net float line that supports the top edge of the net up towards the ocean surface and parallel to a net lead line that keeps the lower edge of the net down on the ocean bottom. The bag net is usually made of heavy gauge line to make the net very visible and made of small mesh to prevent the fish from passing through the mesh.

"Bag net fishing method" means a technique of fishing where a person or persons engage in the act of or attempt to engage in the act of deploying a fence net in the water in such a manner as to completely encircle the aquatic life. The fence net primarily acts like a barrier to hold or concentrate the aquatic life within the net. The mesh is smaller than the target species so as to prevent the smaller aquatic life from swimming through or entangling in the mesh. The aquatic life is then moved into the bag net for removal from the water. The main characteristics of the bag net fishing method are the closed net configuration, the moving net, person or persons do not chase the aquatic life into the net, and most, if not all, of the aquatic life within the net are captured.

"Bullpen trap" means a type of fishing gear that has a pen and guide or guides of a length or lengths of net or material designed to guide aquatic life into the pen situated to prevent the escape of some or all of the aquatic life entering into the pen, whether or not the guide or guides are connected to the pen.

"Closed net configuration" means a net that is deployed in a manner in which the net acts as a physical barrier that prevents or impedes the escape of aquatic life that are too large to pass through the mesh. A net deployed in a series of baffles or in a complete circle will not allow large fish to escape capture, even if the fish are not entangled in the mesh.

"Commercial marine licensee" means any person that has been issued a commercial marine license pursuant to <a href="section189-2">section 189-2</a>, HRS, and section 13-74-20.

"Department" means department of land and natural resources.

"Gill net" means a [rectangular] panel or curtain of net made of various materials, that is suspended vertically in the water with the aid of a net float line that supports the top edge of the net up towards the ocean surface and parallel to a net lead line that keeps the lower edge of the net down towards the ocean bottom. The gill net is usually made of transparent or semi-transparent materials to make the net seem invisible underwater[.], with mesh openings large enough to permit the heads of fish to pass through, ensnaring them around the gills when they attempt to escape.

"Gold-spot herring" mean any fish identified as Herklotsichthys quadrimaculatus or other recognized synonyms.

"Hand net" means a net consisting of a bag of mesh material attached to a frame to hold the bag open and a handle. The net is small enough to use with one hand by one person.

"Iao" or "silversides" means any fish identified as Atherinomorus insularum or other recognized synonyms.

"Landing net" means a hand net that is used to further secure capture of marine life, after the marine life has been first hooked or otherwise detained, to prevent the marine life from becoming unhooked or lost.

"Lay net" means a gill net that is used in lay net fishing.

"Lay netting or lay net fishing method" means a technique of fishing where a person or persons engage in the act of or attempt to engage in the act of deploying a gill net in the water in a specific location, then retrieving the gill net from the same location, after a certain time period has passed to allow for the capture of aquatic life. The lay net primarily entangles aquatic life within the mesh of the net as aquatic life swim or move into the stationary lay net. The lay net is most commonly deployed in a straight line or semi-circle configuration. The main characteristics of [the] lay net fishing [method] are the open net configuration, the stationary net, person or persons [do not] may chase the aquatic life into the net, and only [the] aquatic life that entangles in the net mesh are captured. This fishing method is also known as set netting, cross netting, pa'ipa'i netting, and moemoe netting.

"Makiawa" means any fish identified as Etrumeus teres or Etrumeus micropus or other recognized synonyms. This fish is also known as "mikiawa".

"Marquesan sardine" means any fish identified as Sardinella marquesensis or other recognized synonyms.

"Nehu" means any fish identified as

Encrasicholina purpurea or other recognized synonyms.

"Opae" or "shrimp" means any of the invertebrate crustacean species of the Order Decapoda or other recognized synonyms.

"Opelu" means any fish identified as Decapterus macarellus or other recognized synonyms.

"Pua" means any juvenile fish identified as Mugil cephalus or other recognized synonyms. This fish is also known as young mullet.

"Stony coral" means any of a variety of invertebrate species belonging to the Order Scleractinia characterized by having a hard,

calcareous skeleton that are native to the Hawaiian islands.

"Stretched mesh" means the straight line distance between two opposite inner edges of each eye of the mesh as measured when the eye is stretched to its maximum size.

"Surround gill netting or surround gill net fishing method" means a technique of fishing where a person or persons engage in the act of or attempt to engage in the act of deploying a gill net in the water in such a manner as to completely encircle the aquatic life. The gill net primarily entangles aquatic life within the mesh of the net as the aquatic life swim or move into the surround gill net. The main characteristics of surround gill net fishing are the closed net configuration, the moving net, person or persons chase the aquatic life into the net, and only the aquatic life that entangles in the net mesh are captured.

["Stretched mesh" means the straight line distance between two opposite inner edges of each eye of the mesh as measured when the eye is stretched to its maximum size.]

"Take" means to fish for, catch, capture, confine, or harvest, or attempt to fish for, catch, or harvest, aquatic life. The use of any gear, equipment, tool, or any means to fish for, catch, capture, confine, or harvest, or attempt to fish for, catch, capture, confine, or harvest, aquatic life by any person who is in the water, or in a vessel on the water, or on or about the shore where aquatic life can be fished for, caught, captured, confined, or harvested, shall be construed as taking.

"Using" means placing in the water or attempting to place in the water. [Eff 12/3/98; am 1/11/02; am and comp ] (Auth: HRS \$187A-5) (Imp: HRS \$187A-5)

- \$13-75-2 Penalty. A person violating this chapter shall be punished as provided by [law] sections 187-12.5 and 188-70, HRS, or as otherwise provided. [Eff: 12/3/98; am and comp (Auth: HRS §§ 187A-12.5, 188-70) (Imp: HRS §§187A-12.5, 188-70)
- \$13-75-4 Disposal of fishing gear. It is unlawful to discard or otherwise dispose of any fishing net, trap, or gear with netting, or parts thereof, in the waters of the State. [Eff 12/3/98; comp ] (Auth: HRS \$187A-5) (Imp: HRS \$187A-5)
- §13-75-5 Explosives. (a) It is unlawful to possess or use on or near state waters, any explosives or blasting fuse caps, for the purpose of taking aquatic life, except under the terms and conditions of a permit first obtained by the user from the department.
- (b) The department may issue permits for the use of explosives consistent with other legal requirements. [Eff 12/3/98; comp ]

  (Auth: HRS §§187A-5, 188-23) (Imp: §§187A-5, 188-23)

- §13-75-6 Electrofishing devices. (a) It is unlawful to possess or use on or near state waters, any electrofishing devices or any source of electrical energy with appurtenant devices for the introduction of electricity into the water for the purpose of taking aquatic life, except under the terms and conditions of a permit first obtained by the user from the department.
- (b) The department may issue permits for the use of electrofishing devices consistent with other legal requirements. [Eff 12/3/98; comp ]
  (Auth: HRS §§187A-5, 188-23) (Imp: HRS §§187A-5, 188-23)
- §13-75-7 <u>Poisonous substances</u>. (a) It is unlawful to deposit in, permit to pass into, or place where it can pass into the state waters for the purpose of taking aquatic life any of the following:
  - (1) Any petroleum, coal or oil tar, lampblack, aniline, asphalt, bitumen, or residuary product of petroleum or carbonaceous material or substance;
  - (2) Hypochlorous acid or any of its salts, including bleaches commonly sold under various trade names, such as Clorox and Purex, and bleaching powders;
  - (3) Preparations containing rotenone, tephrosin, or plant materials from Barringtonia asiatica, Cocculus ferrandianus, Hura crepitans, Piscidia erythrina, Tephrosia purpurea, Wikstroemia; and
  - (4) Any other substance or material deleterious to aquatic life; except under the terms and conditions of a permit first obtained by the user from the department.
- (b) The department may issue permits to allow the possession or use of stated amounts of these substances poisonous to aquatic life if the department deems the amount in possession is for legitimate

purposes or in quantities too small to harm aquatic life.

- (c) The possession of these substances without a permit issued by the department by any person on or near the water where fish can be taken, or aboard any fishing vessel or boat is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section. [Eff 12/3/98; am and comp ] (Auth: HRS §\$187A-5, 188-23) (Imp: HRS §\$187A-5, 188-23)
- \$13-75-8 Firearms. (a) No person shall pursue, take, or kill any turtle, crustacean, mollusk, aquatic mammal, or fish, except tuna and billfish that have been caught and gaffed and sharks, in the State with firearms as defined in section 134-1, HRS.
- (b) Any crustacean, mollusk, aquatic mammal, or fish taken or killed or offered for sale in violation of this section shall be confiscated and offered as evidence. [Eff 12/3/98; comp ] (Auth: \$187A-5) (Imp: HRS §187A-5)
- §13-75-9 <u>Spears.</u> (a) No person shall pursue, take, or kill any crustacean (except introduced freshwater prawns), turtle, or aquatic mammal in the State with a spear.
- (b) Any crustacean, mollusk, aquatic mammal, or fish taken or killed or offered for sale in violation of this section shall be confiscated and offered as evidence.
- (c) No person shall take any fish by the use of spears, or possess any speared fish which is smaller than the minimum size for the fish as specified in [section 188-40, HRS] chapter 13-95, HAR, or any rule adopted [thereunder] under section 187A-5, HRS, and any person violating this provision for the first time shall receive a citation. Any subsequent violation shall be punished as provided for in sections 187A-

- 12.5, 187A-13, and 188-70, HRS; provided that the first subsequent violation shall be considered a first violation for the purposes of section [188-70,] 187A-13, HRS. [Eff 12/3/98; am and comp ]
  (Auth: HRS \$\$187A-5, 187A-12.5, 187A-13, 188-70) (Imp: HRS \$\$187A-5, 187A-12.5, 187A-13, 188-70)
- \$13-75-10 Throw nets. (a) It is unlawful for any person who is in the water or on or about the shore where fish can be taken to have in the person's possession a throw net with a mesh of less than two inches stretched [measure] mesh.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or to offer for sale any throw net with a mesh of less than two inches stretched [measure] mesh. [Eff 12/3/98; am and comp ] (Auth: HRS §187A-5) (Imp: HRS §187A-5)
- \$13-75-11 <u>Drift gill nets.</u> It is unlawful for any person to possess or use any drift gill net in the waters of the State. [Eff 12/3/98; comp ] (Auth: HRS §187A-5) (Imp: HRS §187A-5)
- \$13-75-12 <u>Gill nets.</u> [(a)] It is unlawful for any person engaged in gill net fishing to:
  - (1) Leave the person's net unattended without visually inspecting the net every two hours and releasing or removing any undersized, illegal, or unwanted catch; or
  - (2) Leave the net in the water for a period of more than four hours in any twenty-four hour period.
  - [(b) For purposes of this section, "gill net"

- \$13-75-12.2 Akule nets. (a) It is unlawful for any person without a valid commercial marine license to take akule with any net that has less than two and three-fourths inches stretched mesh, except as provided in subsection (e) or as may be otherwise provided by law.
- (b) It is unlawful for any person without a valid commercial marine license to take akule while using the bag net fishing method.
- (c) Except as provided in subsection (e) or as may be otherwise allowed by law, it is unlawful for any commercial marine licensee to take akule while using the:
  - (1) Lay net fishing method with a net that has less than two and three-fourths inches stretched mesh;
  - (2) Surround net fishing method with a net that has less than two and one-half inches stretched mesh; and
  - (3) Bag net fishing method with a net that has less than one and one-half inches stretched mesh.
- (d) It is unlawful for any commercial marine licensee to keep akule within a bag net in the ocean for more than three days without notifying the department. The person must explain the reasons for keeping the akule and when the bag net will be removed. The chairperson of the department may require the immediate removal of the akule from the bag net if [such] the action is necessary to prevent the unacceptable waste of [said] the akule or to alleviate an unacceptably high public safety risk.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) through (d), and section 13-75-14(7), a person may use a landing net of any mesh size; provided that the opening of the landing net is less than four feet in any dimension, excluding the handle. [Eff 1/11/02; am and comp ] (Auth: HRS \$187A-5) (Imp: HRS \$187A-5)

### $\underline{\$13-75-12.4}$ Lay nets. (a) It is unlawful for any person, in, on, or about State waters to:

- (1) Possess or use a lay net that has not been registered with the department;
- (2) Possess or use a lay net which is or lay nets that when set end to end are:
  - A Longer than 125 feet in length and more than seven feet in stretched height, except as provided in section 13-60.3-5; and
  - B Of less than two and three-fourths inches stretched mesh, except as provided in subsection 13-52-2-(2)(A);
- (3) Possess or use a multi-panel lay net;
- (4) Possess or use a lay net that does not have at least four identification tags as specified or provided by the department.

  One identification tag must be attached at each end of both the net float line and the net lead line for a total of four attachment points on each lay net.
- (b) It is unlawful for any person using the lay net fishing method to:
  - (1) Use a lay net that is not marked by surface buoys as specified or provided by the department. The buoys shall display the lay net registration number, be marked with reflective tape, and visible above the surface of the water. The buoys shall be attached to each end of the float line for a total of two buoys for each lay net;

- (2) Use a lay net within 250 feet of another lay net, except as provided in section 13-60.3-5;
- (3) Use a lay net in water greater than 25 feet in depth; provided that a person with a commercial marine license may use a lay net in water depths up to 80 feet, except as provided in section 13-60.3-5;
- (4) Use a lay net for more than four hours during any one set; provided that after one set, the same lay net may not be used again within twenty-four hours after the ending of the set; and provided further that no person shall set any other lay net within that twenty-four hour period after the ending of the set;
- (5) Leave a lay net unattended for more than one-half hour;
- (6) Retrieve a lay net in such a manner as to cause any stony coral to break either from its attachment to the bottom or in smaller pieces. Any stony coral brought to the surface in the net shall be considered a violation of this section;
- (7) Fail to complete inspection of an entire lay net within two hours after the beginning of the set. The person lay net fishing shall inspect the lay net and release any threatened, endangered, prohibited, or unwanted species;
- (8) Discard, abandon, or leave any lay net, or portion thereof, in the water for longer than four hours;
- (9) Use a lay net in freshwater streams or stream mouths.
- (c) It is unlawful for any person to falsely identify, with identification tags, any lay net that is not registered with the department as required in subsection (a).
- (d) Should any registered lay net be lost, destroyed, sold, traded, stolen, given away, or

otherwise no longer the property of, or no longer in the possession of the registered owner, then the registered owner shall be responsible for the lay net until a report is filed and confirmed by the department.

- (e) Any lay net, in, on, or about the water that is not registered or that does not have proper identification tags or surface buoys as required in subsections (a) and (b) shall be considered contraband and subject to immediate seizure by the department.
- (f) It is unlawful for any person to use a lay net in the following areas as provided in the table describing the boundary coordinates for the prohibited fishing areas located at the end of this chapter, entitled, "Table of descriptions of lay net fishing prohibited areas" dated April 19, 2006, and in the maps located at the end of this chapter, entitled, "Map of lay net fishing prohibited area: Maui" dated April 19, 2006 and "Map of lay net fishing prohibited areas: Oahu" dated April 19, 2006, and "Map of lay net fishing prohibited area: Kaneohe Bay, Oahu" dated April 19, 2006:
  - (1) Island of Maui;
  - (2) Kawaihoa Point to Keahi Point, Oahu;
  - (3) Mokapu Peninsula to Wailea Point, Oahu; and
  - (4) Kaneohe Bay, Oahu. [Eff and comp ] (Auth: HRS §\$187A-5, 188-53) (Imp: HRS §\$187A-5, 188-53)

\$13-75-13 <u>Bullpen traps.</u> (a) It is unlawful for any person to use bullpen traps with a stretched mesh of less than two inches.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to capture or attempt to capture aquatic life with a bullpen trap which exceeds two thousand feet in total length. The total length of a bullpen trap shall include the length of the guide or guides and pen.

- (c) It is unlawful for any person engaged in bullpen trap fishing to leave the trap in the same place for a period of more than sixteen hours.
- (d) It is unlawful for any person to capture or attempt to capture aquatic life with a bullpen trap within one thousand yards from the shoreline, except as provided in subsection (e).

\$13-75-14 Nets, generally. It is unlawful for any person to use nets made of or using netting with a stretched mesh of less than two inches, except that:

- (1) Pond owners or operators who hold a valid license issued under section 13-74-40, may use nets of smaller mesh to take young mullet or pua for stocking fish ponds;
- (2) Commercial marine licensees who hold a valid bait license issued under section 13-74-22, may use nets of smaller mesh to take nehu, 'iao, marquesan sardine, gold-spot herring, or any other species for which an open season may be declared by the department for use as bait;
- (3) All persons may use nets of smaller mesh to take shrimp or opae, opelu, makiawa, or mikiawa;
- (4) Aquarium fish collectors with a valid

aquarium fish permit issued pursuant to section 188-31, HRS, may use traps and nets [of smaller mesh, but not throw nets, to fish] for aquarium fish and other aquatic life in conformance with the conditions of the permit, provided that non-commercial aquarium fish collectors shall be limited to a combined total of five fish or aquatic life specimens per person per day;

- (5) All persons may use a net with mesh of not less than one and one-half inches to take akule; provided that no akule measuring less than eight and one-half inches in total length from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail shall be taken with a net during the months of July, August, September, and October;
- (6) All persons engaged in surround net fishing with scuba, may use nets with mesh of not less than one and one-half inches only to bag and transport the fish captured with legal gear to the shore or to the boat; and
- [(7) All persons engaged in stationary monofilament gill net fishing may use monofilament gill netting with a stretched mesh of not less than two and three-fourths inches; and
- (8)] (7) All persons may use hand nets or scoop nets of smaller mesh to take fish or other marine life for noncommercial purposes only; provided that the net, including the handle and other attachment thereto, shall not exceed three feet in any dimension. [Eff 12/3/98; am and comp ] (Auth: HRS §187A-5) (Imp: HRS §187A-5)

- \$13-75-15 <u>Traps.</u> (a) It is unlawful for any person to use any type of trap which is not portable or which is more than ten feet in length or six feet in height or width.
- (b) Except for traps of smaller mesh to take shrimp or opae, and for the entrance cone, it shall also be unlawful to use traps:
  - (1) With netting having a stretched mesh of less than two inches; or
- 2. Material, except source notes, to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored.
- 3. Additions to update source notes to reflect these amendments and compilation are not underscored.
- 4. These amendments to and compilation of chapter 13-75, Hawaii Administrative Rules, shall take effect ten days after filing with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

I certify that the foregoing are copies of the rules, drafted in Ramseyer format pursuant to the requirements of section 91-4.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which were adopted on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and filed with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

PETER T. YOUNG, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Deputy Attorney General

## Hawaii Administrative Rule Chapter 13-75 Table of Descriptions of Lay Net Fishing Prohibited Areas

#### April 19, 2006

Location	Area Description/Boundary Definition
Maui (island)	State waters out to 3 nautical miles
	around the entire island.
Kaneohe Bay,	State waters out to 3 nautical miles
Vanu	and bounded by the nearest landward
	limits of the Sampan and Ship channels
	and further bounded landward by that
	portion of the Ship channel that
	connects North and South portions of
	the Bay.
Kailua Bay,	State waters out to 3 nautical miles
Oahu	and bounded by the latitude
	coordinates 21°27.5'1"N (Mokapu Point)
	and 21°22.8'1"N (Wailea Point).
South Oahu	State waters out to 3 nautical miles
	and bounded by the longitude
	coordinates 157°42.6'W (Kawaihoa
	Point) and 157°58.8'W (Keahi Point).





